

This is wrong. Support H.R. 4555 to correct this.

PROBLEMS OF TANF REAUTHORIZATION

(Ms. WATSON of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my Democratic colleagues in their approach to welfare reform. Voters overwhelmingly believe that expanding training opportunities that will help new people from welfare to good jobs should be a top priority of this Congress.

The voting public supports a TANF reform agenda of expanded access to training, education and flexible time limits. The polling data demonstrates that 82 percent of Americans favor increasing funding for job training and child care. Mr. Speaker, this is what the Democratic proposal presents.

The Republican proposals do not represent the voice of America or our welfare recipients. The one-size-fits-all, Washington-knows-best unfunded mandates of Republican proposals will not work. We need to build upon the success of the past by increasing funding flexibility. We need to assist TANF recipients to get living wage jobs so that they have access to upward mobility.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic proposals will do just that.

SENIORS NEED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Like Yogi Berra said, "It is deja vu all over again."

The Republican majority is trying to convince the American people that they want to do something to provide prescription drug benefit for our Nation's seniors, but it is the same proposal that went nowhere last year. It is nothing but an election year proposal that will provide very little benefit to most seniors.

This tiered proposal, leveled proposal, treats some seniors differently than others, despite the fact that all seniors have paid into the program and deserve a meaningful prescription drug benefit.

I am in favor of providing real prescription drug benefits to seniors. If this proposal is going to work, we need a benefit that is good for all seniors, not just a few. Unfortunately, the Republican plan will not help middle income seniors who have only moderate drug costs. Their plan is unworkable. Even the insurance industry says that insurance will not go for it. So what we have here is a plan that the seniors will not like, the insurance companies will not like, and the public will be able to see through. And even members of my

Republican colleagues' party have mentioned that this bill is not a good proposal.

Let us stop playing games with seniors' lives. It is time to provide a meaningful, generous benefit that actually does something to address the prescription drug problem.

STICK TO THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPLEMENTAL DEFENSE REQUEST

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it has been a hallmark of the Republican majority in Congress to practice fiscal restraint and to stand by a strong national defense. Today here on Capitol Hill we will be about the business of responding to the President's supplemental defense request, and there are some reports and some discussion on Capitol Hill that we may in this majority bring to the floor later this week a bill that could exceed the President's request by nearly 10 percent, adding in spending on election reform and interior agencies; nothing much to do with national defense.

I urge my colleagues to hew to their roots, Mr. Speaker. Spend not one penny more than the President has requested when we pass the defense supplemental this week. By demonstrating fiscal discipline, our majority will renew our commitment to fiscal responsibility and to national defense without compromising either.

HONORING SOUTH CAROLINA POLICY COUNCIL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 1986 a group of South Carolina civic leaders dedicated to improving their State joined together and created the South Carolina Policy Council. South Carolina at that time was dominated by a legislature which controlled an array of semi-autonomous boards and commissions that fostered red tape and hindered accountability. Through the visionary leadership of the late Thomas A. Roe, the Policy Council was formed to fill the void of reformist conservative philosophy.

By publishing timely reports, comprehensive white papers, and hard-hitting editorials, the Policy Council grew in stature and membership. In the beginning of the Republican Revolution, Ed McMullen was chosen as its president. The Policy Council has played a role in every major reform debate. From modernizing State government, to promoting performance audits, to reforming welfare, to cutting taxes, the Policy Council was there. It was further energized by dedicated researcher Hal Eberle and now South Carolina Senate Clerk Jeff Gossett.

Today the South Carolina Policy Council boasts a membership of over 5,000 and regularly participates in policy debates with political, religious and business leaders throughout the Palmetto State.

I am honored to take this opportunity to thank the Policy Council and to wish them well on the ongoing fight to conserve the principles of limited government and traditional values.

STRENGTHEN U.S. STEEL INDUSTRY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as a representative of industrial America, I am urging my colleagues today to vote both to strengthen the U.S. steel industry and to put on hold plans to ship spent nuclear material to Yucca Mountain.

In an era where our rail beds as well as human error yield major train derailments and accidents each year, why authorize Yucca Mountain? Why not improve our rail beds, improve our steel industry and make this country an industrial leader in terms of rail transportation?

In an age of terrorism, why have nuclear material moving all over this country? And, finally, in my own district, a recent nuclear mishap occurred in which boric acid ate through 80 pounds of carbon steel in the central container inside the core. I really ask the question—Why do we have such poor engineering and poor inspection in the nuclear industry? Why do we have a plant reactor that cannot be repaired in this country? Why even if we were able to repair it, do we have to send the core to Japan to cast a new head and then to France for finishing? Why is the nuclear industry exempt with no one responsible under the Price Anderson Act, for liability in the event an accident occurs? Please, I urge my colleagues today to vote to strengthen the U.S. steel industry and vote for nuclear safety.

Vote to uphold the steel decision on limiting imports and to table the Yucca Mountain nuclear storage proposal.

FREE MARTIN AND GRACIA BURNHAM

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 347th day that Martin and Gracia Burnham have been held captive by Muslim terrorists in the Philippines.

This afternoon many members of my family, including my father and mother, will arrive in Washington to visit me and their grandchildren. As I look forward to their visit, I think of the Burnham family and the family reunion they await every day. Too often